Class code: RUSSN-UA 9201

Instructor Details
Jiří Novák
jirinovak@yahoo.com
mobile number: 737 624 072
office hours: professor’s office in Malé náměstí 2, Tuesday 11.00

Class Details
Elementary Czech I
Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 – 1:20 and 1.30 – 2:50
Jesenská, 4th floor, Malé náměstí 2

Prerequisites
none

Class Description
In this course students will develop the fundamentals of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. The course will provide basic vocabulary and grammar which is needed for functional communication in common, everyday situations such as meeting people, giving information about one’s self, asking for/giving directions, shopping, ordering in restaurants, making appointments and suggestions, talking about the weather, likes and dislikes etc. Students are encouraged to explore the language, discover its rules and the ways it works. Supplementary material will also be used, specifically prepared to meet students’ needs and requests. Extra practise is given in correct pronunciation and use of numerals. Vocabulary and grammar are practised in the form of dialogs, group work, games and role-play activities. Special emphasis is placed on making comparisons between Czech and English grammar. Work done in class will be consolidated by means of regular assignments.

The key language topics to be covered are the following:

- the system of Czech sounds, pronunciation, stress and spelling
- grammatical gender
- conjugation of verbs in present, past and future tense
- declination of nouns, adjectives, pronouns and numerals
  (particularly accusative, partly genitive sg +pl, locative and instrumental)
- comparison of adjectives
- modal verbs (want, must, can)
Interactive class sessions with significant student participation will be complemented with two or three field trips.

### Desired Outcomes

1. Students should be able to communicate confidently and effectively in simple Czech in everyday situations e.g. in a store, restaurant, on the street etc.

2. Use common verbs in the present, past and future tense.

3. Understand essential grammar differences between Czech and English – specifically the importance/role of gender, conjugation of verbs, the use of cases, word formation and word order.

4. Understand general cultural differences, some of which are also reflected in the language (including formal and informal form of address).

5. The course should provide insight into Czech language without excessive linguistics and verbosity.

### Assessment Components

- 25% attendance, class participation
- 25% homework, tests and quizzes
- 25% midterm
- 25% final

Students will take six or seven tests, including Midterm and Final.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

### Assessment Expectations

- **Grade A**: Excellent and consistent work, active participation in class, grades A or A- in tests
- **Grade B**: Very good work
- **Grade C**: Satisfactory work
- **Grade D**: Passable work
- **Grade F**: Failure to achieve passable standard
Grade conversion

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Grading Policy

NYU Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-.

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance Policy

Each unexcused absence will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). Absences due to travel will not be excused.

Late Submission of Work

Homework assignments will be checked in every class. If a student fails to submit his or her homework, he or she can submit it in the next session. However, repeated late submission of homework will not be tolerated.
Plagiarism Policy

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Important Note

The schedule of classes is subject to change as the pacing of the class is determined by class members and how much material we’re able to cover.

Additional Required Equipment

Session 1

Tuesday, February 12

Review of Intensive Czech Course, especially giving information about yourself, numerals and verb ‘být’

Homework: review DAY 1 + 2 { Intensive Czech – material prepared by Ilona Floriánová Šaršonová a Jiří Novák}
**Session 2**

Thursday, February 14

Asking for/ giving directions + verb ‘mit’

Homework: review DAY 3 + 4

**Session 3**

Tuesday, February 19

Food, Shopping, In a restaurant (Field trip this week to practice the covered topics)

Accusative with feminine nouns

Homework: review DAY 5 + common phrases and expressions

**Session 4**

Thursday, February 21

‘Party´ – meeting new people, asking and answering questions about yourself, talking about likes and dislikes

Homework: review numerals, verbs být a mít and everyday expressions

**Session 5**

Friday, February 22

Practice Test

Arranging time and place to meet (Field trip, see above)

Homework: review unit 1 from New Step by Step by Lída Holá

**(Make up for Tuesday classes)**

**Session 6**

Tuesday, February 26

Test 1

Possessive pronouns můj/moje, tvůj/tvoje Yellow book, p.24 + grammatical gender p. 25

Homework: Yellow book - adjectives p. 27 + text Moje rodina p.29

Green book – ex. 7, p. 10

**Session 7**

Thursday, February 28

My family - describing people,

Homework: Yellow book - time words p. 34, conjugation of verbs p. 35

Green book – ex. 20, p.14

**Session 8**

Tuesday, March 5

Daily routine – conjugation of verbs p. 36 + 37

Homework: Green book: ex. 5,6,8,9 p. 16,17
Session 9
Unit 3 - mám rád/a structure + modal verbs, p.38,39
Thursday, March 7
Green book: ex. 13, 16,19 p. 18,19,20

Session 10
Unit 4 – Kde je to? (Where is it?) + asking for/giving directions.
Friday, March 8
Homework: Green book, ex. 10, 13, 15 p.24, 25
(Make up for Thursday classes)

Session 11
Test 2, review of mám/rád( I like) structures, locative singular
Tuesday, March 12
Homework: Yellow book: text Ahoj Ireno, p. 49
Green book: ex.10, 13, 20 p. 24,26

Session 12
Text Ahoj Ireno (p.49) – asking and answering questions on the text
Formation of past tense
Thursday, March 14
Yellow book: vocabulary on p. 50
Green book: ex. 12,15, p. 24, 25

Session 13
Unit 5: V restauraci, restaurant dialogs, Yellow book, p. 57
Review of accusative
Tuesday, March 19
Homework: Yellow book: Mít + ... expressions, p. 60
Green book: ex. 11,12 p. 29

Session 14
Co máš rád/a? Co rád/a děláš? Co mate rádi? Likes and dislikes
Mít + ... expressions
Thursday, March 21
Homework: likes and dislikes
Green book: ex. 17, 20, 23 p. 31,32

Session 15
Preparation for Midterm Test
Future and past tense
Tuesday, March 26
Homework: general review of covered material

Session 16
Midterm Exam
Thursday, March 28

Spring Break

Group work: Asking/answering questions about Fall Break – practice in the use of past tense

April 1-5

Homework: Yellow book - Unit 6, irregular past tense verb forms, p. 64, ex. 2, p. 65
Yellow book - Karel IV - read the text, p. 66

Session 17

Text - Karel IV
Position of auxiliary verbs in past tense

Tuesday, April 9

Homework: Green book - ex. 3, 5, 9 p. 33, 34, 35
Yellow book – short biographies, p. 70

Session 18

Typical home dialogs, Yellow book, p. 68 – reading and listening

Thursday, April 11

Homework: Yellow book – short biographies, p. 70 + write a short biography about someone for the class to guess

Session 19

Short biographies + How to Say ´Czech´ in Czech, Yellow book, p. 71

Tuesday, April 16

Homework: Yellow book - names of countries, p. 72, learn the locative of the countries you have been to.
Green Book – ex. 17, p. 38

Session 20

Unit 7 - Apartment and house, advertisements
Looking for a boyfriend/girlfriend (ex. 8, p. 76)

Thursday, April 18

Homework: write an advert – looking for a boyfriend/girlfriend
Green book – ex. 6, 8 p. 40, 41

Session 21

Asking someone out, arranging a time and place to meet
To Know - Znát, vědět, p. 78

Tuesday, April 23

Homework: Yellow book - ex. 14, p. 78,
Green book - ex. 14, 15, p. 43

Session 22

Test 3

Thursday, April 25

Homework: Yellow Book - interrogative, indefinite and negative pronouns, p. 79

Session 23

Negative sentences (double negative)
Prepositions, Yellow book, p. 81

Tuesday, April 30

Homework: Yellow book: ex. 21, p. 81
Green book: ex. 19, 20, 21, p. 44
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<th>Jit, jet, letět – motion verbs and means of transportation To like/to love in Czech (Yellow book - Unit 18),</th>
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<td>Tuesday, May 7</td>
<td>Homework: write a paragraph about your likes and dislikes</td>
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<th>Going on holiday - work out who is going where Prepositions (special worksheet)</th>
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<td>Thursday, May 9</td>
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<th>Review of prepositions + general review – preparation for Final Exam oral exam questions - preparation for oral exam</th>
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<th>Session 28</th>
<th>Final Exam (1. multiple choice section, 2. ‘double’ negative sentences, 3. prepositions, 4. conjugation of verbs in the present, past and future tense, 5. reading for comprehension, 6. write an email home)</th>
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**Classroom Etiquette**

Toilets breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks. Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.
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